



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Privacy Act Statement for Environmental Health Registry Examinations Updated December 1, 2023

Thank you for participating in the Environmental Health Registry programs with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)/Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and reviewing the Privacy Policy for military service-related environmental exposures. As part of VA's Office of Patient Care Services, Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME) (formerly Post-Deployment Health Services) collects your personal information per 38 U.S.C. § 7301(b) while administering various programs related to environmental and occupational [exposures of U.S. Veterans during military service](#), including: Agent Orange Registry (AOR), Gulf War Registry (GWR), Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR), Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR), Toxic Embedded Fragments (TEF) Registry and Depleted Uranium (DU) Registry.

The data from the environmental health registries is used to collect information on health issues that may be affecting Veterans who were deployed to various conflicts. It is important to recognize that the registry data, although it is not a disability exam, can be used by the Veteran to support a claim or for medical follow-up. However, at the registry database level (i.e., HOME) no individual identifying data is ever used to assess an individual's condition. Non-identifiable data is used as part of an assessment collectively of conditions that may affect deployed groups of Veterans.

VA Environmental Health Coordinators and Clinicians performing registry examinations adhere to data stewardship principles in managing user data. The data stewardship principles guiding our efforts include the following goals:

- protection of Veteran privacy
- maintaining the confidentiality of data
- ensuring appropriate levels of security for Veteran data.

This policy describes how VA applies these principles to the handling of personal information provided in a registry examination.

Personal information may include name, email, home, and/or business address, phone numbers; Social Security Number, EDIPI/DOD ID or other information that identifies you personally.

#### Information Privacy Protection

Your personal information will not be disclosed to third parties outside VA without your consent, except as outlined in the applicable Privacy Act Systems of Records notices discussed below, per a Court Order or as permitted by law.

Providing the information during a registry examination is voluntary, but if it is not provided, we will be unable to enter you into a registry.

VA follows the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a), which requires VA to protect your personal information that VA maintains in a system of records. A system of records is a

file, database or program from which personal information is retrieved by name or another personal identifier. The Privacy Act provides several protections for your personal information. These typically include how information is collected, used, disclosed, stored, and disposed.

The official system of records notices (SORNs) for registry examinations are:

- “National Patient Databases-VA” (121VA10A7/ 83 FR 6094) at [2018-02760.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)
- “Agent Orange Registry” (105VA10P4Q/ 85 FR 7407) at [2020-02478.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)
- “Gulf War Registry” (93VA10/ 86 FR 52546) at [2021-20361.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)
- “Ionizing Radiation Registry” (69VA10 86 FR 23048) at [2021-09069.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

VA may make a “routine use” disclosure of the information as outlined in the above Privacy Act Systems of Records Notices and in accordance with the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices.

A privacy impact assessment (PIA) determines how information in identifiable form is collected, stored, protected, shared, and managed. The purpose of a PIA is to demonstrate that system owners and developers have incorporated privacy protections throughout the entire system’s life cycle. A listing of VA PIAs is available at: <https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/pia.aspx>.

#### Information Collected and Stored

VA collects information during your registry exam. We limit the data collected to meet specific needs and to protect your privacy.

#### Information Sharing

We do not sell, rent, or otherwise provide your personal information to outside marketers. Information collected via VA Web sites may be shared with employees, contractors, and other service providers as necessary to respond to a request, provide a service or as otherwise permitted by law.

#### Contact VA Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME)

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding our privacy policy or the use of your information. You can contact us by mail or telephone as shown below.

##### By mail:

Health Outcomes Military Exposures (12POP5)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

##### By Phone:

(202) 266-4695 or (800) 211-5272